

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

**MESSAGE**

FROM THE

**PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,**

TRANSMITTING

**THE ANNUAL STATEMENT**

OF

**THE COMMISSIONER OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS,**

OF THE

**Expenditure on the same,**

AND OF

**THE PROGRESS OF THE SAID BUILDINGS.**

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DECEMBER 8, 1826.

Read, and referred to the Committee on the Expenditures on the Public Buildings.

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WASHINGTON:

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1826.



*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.*

WASHINGTON, 8th December, 1826.

In compliance with a Resolution of the Senate of the 28th January, 1818, I transmit a Report of the Commissioner of the Public Buildings, containing the annual statement of Expenditures on those buildings, and the account of their progress, required by the said Resolution.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.



WASHINGTON, December 7th, 1826.

*To the President of the United States:*

SIR: The progress of the work on the Capitol, during the present season, has not fully equalled our expectations. The principal part of it consisted of offices and appendages, not embraced by the original design, in relation to which, no provision could be made until sanctioned by an appropriation. That act was among the latest of the last session; and subsequent to its passage, bills were to make out for the material, which was then in the quarry. A section of the work has, however, been carried up, and materials provided, and in a course of preparation, for the remainder. The East front, and its massy approach, have been finished, with the exception of the ornamental figures, which are advancing as rapidly as their due execution will permit. The library has been restored. The injury it had sustained was found to be much more extensive than had been anticipated. The adhesion of the stucco, and the plastering of the dome, was so far destroyed that its entire removal became necessary. Some progress has been made in regulating the ground, and in extending the footways round it. The work suffered a severe loss by the accidental death of Mr. Blagden, which happened early in the season. Possessing in a high degree the science, and practical knowledge of his profession, he had conducted in its most important branch, the construction of the Capitol, almost from its commencement, with a precision, and fidelity, which he carried into all the relations of life.

The Penitentiary, authorized by the act of the 20th of May last, has been carried up nearly to the springing of the roof, and a wharf built for landing materials, and for the use of the establishment when it goes into operation. In laying the foundation of a structure of this kind at the seat of Government, it was considered important to combine all the improvements, tested by an actual course of experiments, which the scale prescribed would admit. To perform a tour of inspection to some of the prominent establishments in different States, and to arrange and condense into one plan, the multifarious materials collected, necessarily occupied the Architect a considerable portion of time, and as necessarily preceded the commencement of the work. Another season, it is estimated, will suffice for its completion.

The Jail in this City has been put under a new roof, thoroughly repaired, and apartments added for the keeper, who heretofore occupied several in the building, which will in future be appropriated to the prisoners. It will now afford, it is believed, all the security, comfort, and convenience, of which the original plan is susceptible.

As neither the United States, nor the authorities of Alexandria, possessed any ground in that town, on which to erect a Jail, the delay incident to the selection of a suitable lot, and procuring a satisfactory title to it, left time for the accomplishment of but little more.

The Expenditures on these objects, and others, have been as follows :

Capitol and grounds,	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 70,045 03
President's Square,	-	-	-	-	-	3,552 91
Penitentiary,	-	-	-	-	-	7,166 93
Washington Jail,	-	-	-	-	-	3,550 47
Alexandria, Do.	-	-	-	-	-	500 00
Footways between the Capitol and Executive offices,						1,278 46
Fire Engines and Hose,	-	-	-	-	-	169 14

I have the honor to remain, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

J. ELGAR,

*Commissioner of Public Buildings.*





